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CHURCH SERVICE BOOK

and

MINISTERIAL ACTS

of the

Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod
OF NORTH AMERICA

Abridged Edition

AUGUSTANA BOOK CONCERN
ROCK ISLAND, ILL.
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Contents

PAGE

The Service. Morning 5

The Holy Communion with the Full Service 18

Vespers 34

Order for Holy Communion for the Sick 40

Holy Baptism 44

Baptism of an Adult Born of Christian Parents 49

The Solemnization of Marriage 54

The Burial Service 60

Order for the Installation of a Pastor 75

Order for Installation of Church Officers 84

Order for Reception of Members 88

Order for the Laying of a Corner Stone 91

The Service

Morning

The Service shall begin with an appropriate *Hymn*. During the singing the *Minister* shall proceed to the Altar and kneel in prayer. After the singing he shall rise, turn to the Congregation, and sing or say:

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts! The whole earth is full of His glory.

Thereafter the *Minister* shall say:

The Lord is in His holy temple; His throne is in heaven. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of an humble and contrite spirit. He heareth the supplications of the penitent and inclineth to their prayers. Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto His throne of grace and confess our sins:

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

The *Minister* shall turn to the Altar, and with the *Congregation* unite in the following Confession of Sins:

Holy and righteous God, merciful Father, we confess unto Thee, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee, by thought, word, and deed. We have not loved Thee above all things, nor our neighbor as ourselves, and are worthy, therefore, to be cast away from Thy presence if Thou shouldst

judge us according to our sins. But Thou hast promised, O heavenly Father, to receive with tender mercy all penitent sinners who turn unto Thee and with a living faith seek refuge in Thy fatherly compassion and in the merits of the Saviour, Jesus Christ. Their transgressions Thou wilt not regard, nor impute unto them their sins. Relying upon Thy promise, we confidently beseech Thee to be merciful and gracious unto us and to forgive us all our sins, to the praise and glory of Thy Holy Name.

May the Almighty, Eternal God, in His infinite mercy and for the sake of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, forgive all our sins, and give us grace to amend our lives, and with Him obtain eternal life. Amen.

Or, the following may be used during Lent and on Holy Days:

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness: according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Thy sight. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Heavenly Father, hear my prayer for the sake of Thy Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

KYRIE

The *Minister* and the *Congregation* shall rise and sing:

Lord, have mercy upon us! Christ, have mercy upon us! Lord, have mercy upon us!

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

The *Minister*, turning to the Congregation, shall sing or say:

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

The *Minister* shall turn to the Altar, and with the *Congregation* shall sing:

All glory be to Thee, Most High, To Thee all adoration! In grace and truth Thou drawest nigh To offer us salvation. Thou showest Thy good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; We praise Thy Name forever.

On Festival Days, or on any Sunday except during Lent, the following *(I or II)* may be sung instead of "All glory be to Thee, Most High."

I.

We praise Thee, we worship Thee, We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory, O Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty! O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ! Holy Spirit, Spirit of grace and of truth and of peace! Amen, Amen, Amen.

II.

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord God, Heav'nly King,

God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord; Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE SALUTATION

Then the *Minister* shall turn to the Congregation and sing or say:

The Lord be with you.

The *Congregation* shall sing:

And with thy spirit.

Then the *Minister* shall say:

Let us pray.

THE COLLECT

The *Minister*, turning to the Altar, shall read on Sundays and Festival Days the proper Collect. On special occasions one of the following may be used:

O Lord God, Heavenly Father, Thou Who hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that they turn from their way and live: we pray Thee that Thou wouldst mercifully avert the punishment that our sins deserve, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Or:

We beseech Thee, Almighty God, Heavenly Father, to grant us a true faith, a firm hope in Thy mercy, and

a sincere love to our fellow men, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The *Congregation* shall sing:

Amen.

THE EPISTLE

The *Minister* shall turn to the Congregation and say:

The Epistle for *(here he shall name the Sunday or Festival Day)* is written in.....

The Epistle ended, the *Minister* shall turn to the Altar, and the *Congregation* shall be seated. A *Hymn (The Gradual)* shall then be sung.

THE GOSPEL

The Hymn ended, the *Minister* shall turn to the Congregation and say:

Lift up your hearts unto the Lord and hear the Gospel for the Day as it is written in.....

The *Congregation* shall arise, and the Gospel for the Day shall be read. The Gospel ended, the *Minister* and the *Congregation* shall say

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father

Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the Life everlasting. Amen.

Or:

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By Whom all things were made; Who, for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

An *Anthem* in harmony with the lessons for the day may here be sung. Then shall follow one or more verses of a *Hymn* as an introduction to the Sermon. In the meantime the *Minister* shall enter the Pulpit.

THE SERMON

The Sermon ended, the *Minister* shall offer a prayer in his own words or the following:

Praised be the Lord, and blessed forever, Who by His Word has comforted, taught, exhorted, and admonished us. May His Holy Spirit confirm the Word in our hearts, that we be not forgetful hearers, but daily increase in faith, hope, love, and patience unto the end, and obtain salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The *Church Notices* may then be given. The *Announcement of a Death* within the Congregation may be made as follows:

We are again reminded that here we have no abiding city. It has pleased the Lord in His infinite wisdom to call from our midst N. N. at the age of.....

The Lord teach us so to consider our own departure, that when the hour is come we may be prepared for a blessed entrance into the heavenly kingdom.

When *Intercession for the Sick* is requested, the *Minister* shall say:

N. N. and N. N., who are sick, desire to be remembered in the prayers of the Congregation:

Almighty and Eternal God, Thou art the health and strength of them that trust in Thee. We pray Thee that Thou wouldst look in mercy upon the sick and the needy, and especially upon Thy servants for whom we now invoke Thy mighty aid. Turn their distress unto good, and if it be Thy will restore them to health. But above all give them healing for the soul through Thy holy Word. Help them by the remembrance of the bitter passion of Thy Son patiently to bear the affliction with which Thou hast visited them. And finally, when their hour is come, deliver them from all evil and bring them safe to Thy heavenly kingdom; through Thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Pulpit Office shall conclude with the following:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen. (2 Cor. 13. 14.)

Or:

The God of all grace, Who called you unto His eternal glory in Christ, after that ye have suffered a little while, shall Himself perfect, establish, strengthen you. To Him be the dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Pet. 5. 10, 11).

Easter and Pentecost Seasons.

Now the God of Peace, Who brought again from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make you

perfect in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Heb. 13. 20, 21).

Trinity Season.

Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations for ever and ever. Amen. (Eph. 3. 20, 21).

At the End of the Church Year.

The God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved entire, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (1 Th. 5. 23).

THE OFFERING

Then shall an *Offertory* be played, or an *Anthem* sung, during which the *Offering* shall be made. The *Minister*, having received the offering, shall place it upon the Altar and pray as follows:

O God, Thou Giver of all good gifts, graciously receive and bless this offering which we Thy people place upon Thine Altar, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

Then shall the *Congregation* sing a *Hymn*, during which the *Minister* shall proceed to the Altar.

THE SALUTATION

The *Minister* shall turn to the Congregation and sing or say:

The Lord be with you.

* A short offertory sentence may then be sung by the Choir.

The *Congregation* shall sing:

And with thy spirit.

The *Minister* shall say:

Let us pray.

Turning to the Altar, the *Minister* shall offer

THE GENERAL PRAYER*

Almighty and most Merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: We give Thee thanks for all Thy goodness and tender mercies. Be gracious unto us and remember not our sins. Sanctify and guide us through Thy Holy Spirit, and grant that we may walk in holiness of life according to Thy Word. Unite, strengthen, and preserve Thy Church through the Word and the Holy Sacraments. Have mercy, O Lord, on all the nations that walk in darkness and that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, and cause the saving and life-giving light of Thy Gospel to shine graciously upon them.

For Synodical and Conference Meetings.

Bless those who are now assembled to deliberate concerning the welfare of Thy Church, that their counsels may further Thy glory and the upbuilding of Thy kingdom among us.

Be Thou the strength and stay of our land. Give it grace and honor. Grant health and prosperity to all in

* On special Festival Days the prayers prescribed should precede the General Intercession. According to circumstances, those parts of the General Intercession referring to conditions that do not always prevail are omitted, such as the prayers for Church assemblies, for Confirmation Candidates, etc. Occasional prayers shall, when they occur, follow the General Prayer. During Lent and on special occasions the Litany may be used instead of the General Prayer.

authority, especially to the President (and the Congress) of the United States, the Governor (and the Legislature) of this Commonwealth, and to all our Judges and Magistrates. Endue them with grace to rule after Thy good pleasure, to the maintenance of righteousness, and to the hindrance and punishment of wickedness, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Help us, O God, that we may live together in peace and concord, with true and Christian counsel in all that we undertake. Prosper every good work, and turn away from us all harm and evil. May Thy blessing rest upon the fruits of the earth, and give success to every lawful occupation on land and sea.

Let the light of Thy Word ever shine within our homes. Keep the children of the Church in the covenant which Thou hast made with them in Holy Baptism, and give all parents and teachers grace to nurture them in Thy truth and fear. Bless, we pray Thee, the institutions of the Church: its colleges, its seminaries, and all its schools; that they may send forth men and women to serve Thee, in the ministry of the Word, the ministry of mercy, and all the walks of life.

For Catechumens.

Regard with special favor those who are being prepared for their first communion. Illumine their hearts and minds, and grant them unfeigned faith that they may ever walk as Thy disciples in the way of truth.

Help and comfort the sick and the poor, the oppressed and those who mourn, the afflicted and the dying. Graciously protect all widows and orphans. Support us in our last hour, and after this transitory life vouchsafe unto us eternal blessedness: through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The *Congregation* shall sing:

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The *Minister*, together with the *Congregation*, shall continue:

Our Father, Who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

The *Minister* shall turn to the *Congregation* and sing or say:

Let us thank and praise the Lord!

The *Congregation* shall sing:

Glory be to Thee, O Lord! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

THE BENEDICTION

Then shall the *Minister* say:

Bow your hearts to God, and receive the Benediction.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The *Minister* shall turn to the Altar, and the *Congregation* shall sing:

Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Service shall close with silent prayer, while the *Congregation* remains standing and the *Minister* kneels before the Altar.

The Holy Communion

(With the Full Service)

The Service shall begin with an appropriate *Hymn*. During the singing the *Minister* shall proceed to the Altar and kneel in prayer. After the singing he shall rise, turn to the Congregation, and say:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

THE COMMUNION SERMON

Here shall follow a brief *Communion Sermon*, after which the *Minister* shall turn to the Altar, kneel, and with the *Congregation* unite in the following *Confession of Sins:*

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Holy and righteous God, merciful Father, we confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. We have not loved Thee above all things, nor our neighbor as ourselves, and are worthy, therefore, to be cast away from Thy presence, if Thou shouldst judge us according to our sins. But Thou hast promised, O heavenly Father, to receive with tender mercy all penitent sinners who turn unto Thee and with a living faith seek refuge in Thy fatherly compassion and in the merits of the Saviour, Jesus Christ. Their transgressions Thou wilt not regard, nor impute unto them their sins. Relying upon Thy promise, we confidently beseech

Thee to be merciful and gracious unto us and to forgive us all our sins, to the praise and glory of Thy Holy Name.

THE ABSOLUTION

The *Minister* shall turn to the Congregation and pronounce the Absolution:

If this be your sincere confession, and if with penitent hearts you earnestly desire the forgiveness of your sins for the sake of Jesus Christ, God, according to His promise, forgiveth you all your sins; and by the authority of God's Word and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare unto you that God, through His grace, hath forgiven all your sins; in the Name of God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

The *Minister*, still turned to the Congregation, shall sing or say:

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

The *Minister* shall turn to the Altar, and with the *Congregation* shall sing:

All glory be to Thee, Most High, To Thee all adoration! In grace and truth Thou drawest nigh To offer us salvation. Thou showest Thy good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; We praise Thy Name forever.

On Festival days, or on any Sunday except during Lent, the following *(I or II)* may be sung instead of "All glory be to Thee, Most High."

I.

We praise Thee, we worship Thee, We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory, O Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty! O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ! Holy Spirit, Spirit of grace and of truth and of peace! Amen, Amen, Amen.

II.

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory, O Lord God, Heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord; Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE SALUTATION

Then the *Minister* shall turn to the Congregation and sing or say:

The Lord be with you.

The *Congregation* shall sing:

And with thy spirit.

Then the *Minister* shall say:

Let us pray.

THE COLLECT

The *Minister*, turning to the Altar, shall read on Sundays and Festival Days the proper Collect. On special occasions one of the following may be used:

O Lord God, Heavenly Father, Thou Who hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that they turn from their way and live; we pray Thee that Thou wouldst mercifully avert the punishment that our sins deserve, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Or:

We beseech Thee, Almighty God, Heavenly Father, to grant us a true faith, a firm hope in Thy mercy, and a sincere love to our fellow men, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The *Congregation* shall sing:

Amen.

THE EPISTLE

The *Minister* shall turn to the Congregation and say:

The Epistle for *(here he shall name the Sunday or Festival Day)* is written in.....

The Epistle ended, the *Minister* shall turn to the Altar, and the *Congregation* shall be seated. A *Hymn (The Gradual)* shall then be sung.

THE GOSPEL

The Hymn ended, the *Minister* shall turn to the Congregation and say:

Lift up your hearts unto the Lord and hear the Gospel for the Day as it is written in.....

The *Congregation* shall arise, and the Gospel for the Day shall be read. The Gospel ended, the *Minister* and the *Congregation* shall say

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the Life everlasting. Amen.

Or:

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By Whom all things were made; Who, for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the

third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

An *Anthem* in harmony with the lessons for the day may here be sung. Then shall follow one or more verses of a *Hymn* as an introduction to the Sermon. In the meantime the *Minister* shall enter the Pulpit.

THE SERMON

The Sermon ended, the *Minister* shall offer a prayer in his own words or the following:

Praised be the Lord, and blessed forever, Who by His Word has comforted, taught, exhorted, and admonished us. May His Holy Spirit confirm the Word in our hearts, that we be not forgetful hearers, but daily increase in faith, hope, love, and patience unto the end, and obtain salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The *Church Notices* may then be given. The *Announcement of a Death* within the Congregation may be made as follows:

We are again reminded that here we have no abiding city. It has pleased the Lord in His infinite wisdom to call from our midst N. N. at the age of.....

The Lord teach us so to consider our own departure, that when the hour is come we may be prepared for a blessed entrance into the heavenly kingdom.

When *Intercession for the Sick* is requested, the *Minister* shall say:

N. N. and N. N., who are sick, desire to be remembered in the prayers of the Congregation:

Almighty and Eternal God, Thou art the health and strength of them that trust in Thee. We pray Thee that Thou wouldst look in mercy upon the sick and the needy, and especially upon Thy servants for whom we now invoke Thy mighty aid. Turn their distress unto good, and if it be Thy will, restore them to health. But above all give them healing for the soul through Thy holy Word. Help them by the remembrance of the bitter passion of Thy Son patiently to bear the affliction with which Thou hast visited them. And finally, when their hour is come, deliver them from all evil and bring them safe to Thy heavenly kingdom; through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The *Pulpit Office* shall conclude with the following:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen. (2 Cor. 13. 14).

Or:

The God of all grace, Who called you unto His eternal glory in Christ, after that ye have suffered a little

while, shall Himself perfect, establish, strengthen you. To Him be the dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Pet. 5. 10, 11).

Easter and Pentecost Seasons.

Now the God of Peace, Who brought again from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make you perfect in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Heb. 13. 20, 21).

Trinity Season.

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations for ever and ever. Amen. (Eph. 3. 20, 21).

At the End of the Church Year.

The God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved entire, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (1 Th. 5. 23).

THE OFFERING

Then shall an *Offertory* be played, or an *Anthem* sung, during which the *Offering* shall be made. The *Minister*, having received the offering, shall place it upon the Altar and pray as follows:

O God, Thou Giver of all good gifts, graciously re-

ceive and bless this offering which we Thy people place upon Thine Altar, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

Then shall the *Congregation* sing a *Hymn*, during which the *Minister* shall proceed to the Altar.

THE SALUTATION

The *Minister* shall turn to the Congregation and sing or say:

The Lord be with you.

The *Congregation* shall sing:

And with thy spirit.

The *Minister* shall say:

Let us pray.

Turning to the Altar, the *Minister* shall offer

THE GENERAL PRAYER**

Almighty and most Merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: We give Thee thanks for all Thy goodness and tender mercies. Be gracious unto us and remember not our sins. Sanctify and guide us through Thy Holy Spirit, and grant that we may walk in holiness of life according to Thy Word. Unite, strengthen, and preserve Thy Church through the Word and the Holy Sacraments. Have mercy, O Lord, on all the

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* A short offertory sentence may then be sung by the Choir.

** On special Festival Days the prayers prescribed should precede the General Intercession. According to circumstances, those parts of the General Intercession referring to conditions that do not always prevail are omitted, such as the prayers for Church assemblies, for Confirmation Candidates, etc. Occasional prayers shall, when they occur, follow the General Prayer. During Lent and on special occasions the Litany may be used instead of the General Prayer.

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For Synodical and Conference Meetings.

Bless those who are now assembled to deliberate concerning the welfare of Thy Church, that their counsels may further Thy glory and the upbuilding of Thy kingdom among us.

Be Thou the strength and stay of our land. Give it grace and honor. Grant health and prosperity to all in authority, especially to the President (and the Congress) of the United States, the Governor (and the Legislature) of this Commonwealth, and to all our Judges and Magistrates. Endue them with grace to rule after Thy good pleasure, to the maintenance of righteousness, and to the hindrance and punishment of wickedness, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Help us, O God, that we may live together in peace and concord, with true and Christian counsel in all that we undertake. Prosper every good work, and turn away from us all harm and evil. May Thy blessing rest upon the fruits of the earth, and give success to every lawful occupation on land and sea.

Let the light of Thy Word ever shine within our homes. Keep the children of the Church in the covenant which Thou hast made with them in Holy Bap-

tism, and give all parents and teachers grace to nurture them in Thy truth and fear. Bless, we pray Thee, the institutions of the Church: its colleges, its seminaries, and all its schools; that they may send forth men and women to serve Thee, in the ministry of the Word, the ministry of mercy, and all the walks of life.

For Catechumens.

Regard with special favor those who are being prepared for their first communion. Illumine their hearts and minds, and grant them unfeigned faith that they may ever walk as Thy disciples in the way of truth.

Help and comfort the sick and the poor, the oppressed and those who mourn, the afflicted and the dying. Graciously protect all widows and orphans. Support us in our last hour, and after this transitory life vouchsafe unto us eternal blessedness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The *Congregation* shall sing:

Amen.

O LAMB OF GOD, MOST HOLY

Then the *Congregation* shall sing, "*O Lamb of God, Most Holy,*" while the *Minister* makes ready the elements of the Sacrament on the Altar.

O Lamb of God, most holy, On Calvary an off'ring; Despised, meek, and lowly, Thou in Thy death and suff'ring Our sins didst bear, our anguish; The might of death didst vanquish; Give us Thy peace, O Jesus!

THE PREFACE

The *Minister* shall turn to the Congregation and sing or say:

Lift up your hearts unto God.

The *Congregation* shall sing:

We lift them up unto the Lord our God.

The *Minister* shall sing or say:

Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

The *Congregation* shall sing:

It is meet and right so to do.

VERE DIGNUM

The *Minister* shall turn to the Altar and say:

It is truly meet, right, and salutary, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is our Paschal Lamb, offered for us, the innocent Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world. As He hath conquered death, is risen again, and liveth for evermore, even so all they who put their trust in Him shall through Him be victorious over sin and death, and inherit eternal life. And in order that we may keep in remembrance His unspeakable mercy, He hath instituted His Holy Supper.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Then shall the *Minister* say:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks,

He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is My Body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of Me.

After the same manner, also, when He had supped, He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; this Cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The *Minister*, together with the *Congregation*, shall say:

Our Father, Who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SANCTUS

Then shall the *Minister* and the *Congregation* together sing:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory; Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

PAX

The *Minister*, turning to the Congregation, shall sing or say:

The peace of the Lord be with you alway.

AGNUS DEI

The Communicants now come forward while the *Congregation* sings:

O Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world, Save us, merciful Lord God! O Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world, Hear us, merciful Lord God! O Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world, Give us Thy peace and blessing.

During the distribution, appropriate *Hymns* are sung by the *Congregation*, with subdued organ accompaniment. The *Minister* first administers the *Bread* to each communicant with these words:*

The Body of Christ given for thee.

And then the *Cup* with these words:

The Blood of Christ shed for thee.

To each group of communicants, as they leave the communion table, the *Minister* says:

The Lord Jesus Christ, Whose Body and Blood ye have now received, preserve you unto everlasting life. Amen.

Or else the *Minister* shall say at the administration of the *Bread:*

Jesus Christ, Whose Body thou now receivest, preserve thee unto everlasting life.

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* When the officiating Pastor administers communion to himself he shall, when the first group of communicants have knelt at the chancel, kneel at the Altar and administer the bread to himself with the words: "The Body of Christ given for me." He shall then rise and administer to the kneeling communicants. In the distribution of the wine he proceeds in the same manner with the words: "The Blood of Christ shed for me." At the final salutation to this group of communicants the words "we" and "us" should be substituted for "ye" and "you." When two Ministers are officiating they may first administer to each other before the Altar.

And at the administration of the *Cup:*

Jesus Christ, Whose Blood thou now receivest, preserve thee unto everlasting life.

In dismissing the communicants the *Minister* shall say:

The Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

When the distribution is ended, the *Minister* shall say:

Let us pray.

The *Congregation* shall rise. Turning to the Altar, the *Minister* shall say:

We thank Thee, Almighty Father, Who, through Thy Son Jesus Christ, for our consolation and salvation hast instituted this Holy Supper: we pray Thee, grant us grace so to commemorate the death of Christ that we may be partakers of the great Supper in heaven.

Or:

We thank Thee, Almighty God, that through this gracious feast Thou hast refreshed and satisfied us, and we pray Thee that it may tend to the increase of our faith and to growth in godliness and all Christian virtues, through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Or:

Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Who hast called us to this Holy Supper, we most heartily thank Thee for Thy mercy, that Thou hast nourished us with Thy Body and Blood, and that Thou hast filled and compassed us about with Thy goodness. O Lord, abide with us; into

Thy hands we commit ourselves, and put our trust in Thee. Grant us to dwell with Thee forever.

The *Congregation* shall sing:

Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

The *Minister* shall turn to the Congregation and sing or say:

Let us thank and praise the Lord!

The *Congregation* shall sing:

Glory be to Thee, O Lord! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

THE BENEDICTION

Then shall the *Minister* say:

Bow your hearts to God, and receive the Benediction.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The *Minister* shall turn to the Altar, and the *Congregation* shall sing:

Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Service shall close with silent prayer, while the *Congregation* remains standing and the *Minister* kneels before the Altar.

Vespers

The Service shall begin with an appropriate *Hymn*. During the singing the *Minister* shall proceed to the Altar and kneel in prayer. After the singing he shall rise, turn to the Congregation, and say:

Grace be unto you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, for He is our God.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

The *Minister*, turning to the Altar, shall kneel and pray:

Merciful God, Heavenly Father, Whose grace endureth from generation to generation, Thou art patient and longsuffering and forgivest the sins and transgressions of all who truly repent. Look with compassion upon Thy people and hear their supplications. We have sinned against Thee. We are unworthy of Thy goodness and love. Remember not our transgressions; have mercy upon us; help us, O God, our Saviour. Grant us remission of all our sins and save us. Give us the grace of Thy Holy Spirit that we may amend our ways and with Thee obtain everlasting life; through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The *Minister*, rising and turning to the Congregation, shall say:

If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have

fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

GLORIA PATRI

The *Minister* shall turn to the Altar, and the *Congregation* shall rise and sing:

Glory be to the Father, And to the Son, And to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, Is now, And ever shall be, World without end. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

After the singing the *Minister* shall turn to the Congregation and say:

Hear the Word of God as it is recorded in the.....

The *Minister* and *Congregation* shall then make their Confession of Faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed or of the Nicene Creed.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the Life everlasting. Amen.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By Whom all things were made; Who, for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

An *Anthem* may here be sung. Then shall follow one or more verses of a *Hymn* as an introduction to the Sermon. In the meantime the *Minister* shall enter the Pulpit.

The Sermon shall conclude with the following *prayer:*

We praise Thee, O God, that Thou hast permitted Thy Word to dwell richly among us to the salvation and building up of our souls on our most holy faith. Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the gift of Thy Son, Who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. We thank Thee that Thou hast permitted the message of this great salvation to come to us through the Gospel. We pray Thee, grant us a living faith in Christ, a fervent love to Thee and to our fellow men, and a blessed hope through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

The *Church Notices* may then be given. The Pulpit Office shall conclude with the following:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

Then shall an *Offertory* be played, or an *Anthem* sung, during which the offering shall be made. The *Minister*, having received the offering, shall place it upon the Altar and pray as follows:

O God, Thou Giver of all good gifts, graciously receive and bless this offering, which we Thy people place upon Thine Altar, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

Then shall the *Congregation* sing a *Hymn*, during which the *Minister* shall proceed to the Altar.

* A short offertory sentence may then be sung by the Choir.

THE SALUTATION

The *Minister* shall turn to the Congregation and sing or say:

The Lord be with you.

The *Congregation* shall rise and sing:

And with thy spirit.

Then the *Minister* shall say:

Let us pray.

The *Minister* shall turn to the Altar and pray:

Watch over us, O Lord, our heavenly Father, and protect us from all evil, and grant that we may this night rest secure under Thy care. Preserve and bless Thy Church and our Government. Graciously remember the sick and those who are in need or in peril. Have mercy upon all men. And when our last evening shall come, grant us to fall asleep in Thy peace and to awake in Thy glory, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord.

The *Congregation* shall sing:

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The *Congregation* shall unite with the *Minister* in the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, Who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Then shall be sung the *Nunc Dimittis:*

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, According to Thy word; For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation, Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people: A light to lighten the Gentiles, And the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.

Instead of the *Nunc Dimittis* the following may be used:

BENEDICAMUS

The *Minister* shall turn to the Congregation and sing or say:

Let us thank and praise the Lord!

The *Congregation* shall sing:

Glory be to Thee, O Lord! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

THE BENEDICTION

Then shall the *Minister* say:

Bow your hearts to God, and receive the Benediction.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The *Minister* shall turn to the Altar, and the *Congregation* shall sing:

Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Service shall close with silent prayer, while the *Congregation* remains standing and the *Minister* kneels before the Altar.

Order for Holy Communion for the Sick

After the *Minister* has acquainted himself with the spiritual state of the Communicant and made a brief, appropriate Address, he shall read, or have the Communicant read, the following *Confession of Sins*:*

Holy and righteous God, merciful Father, we confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. We have not loved Thee above all things, nor our neighbor as ourselves, and are worthy, therefore, to be cast away from Thy presence, if Thou shouldst judge us according to our sins. But Thou hast promised, O heavenly Father, to receive with tender mercy all penitent sinners who turn unto Thee and with a living faith seek refuge in Thy fatherly compassion and in the merits of the Saviour, Jesus Christ. Their transgressions Thou wilt not regard, nor impute unto them their sins. Relying upon Thy promise, we confidently beseech Thee to be merciful and gracious unto us and to forgive us all our sins, to the praise and glory of Thy Holy Name.

Then shall the *Minister* pronounce the *Absolution* in the following or other appropriate words:

If this be your sincere confession, and if with a penitent heart you earnestly desire the forgiveness of your

* If the Communicant is critically ill, the Minister may determine the manner and the form in which the Confession of Sins shall be made. He should assure himself, however, that the sick person has actually confessed his sins and has prayed for forgivenses for Christ's sake.

sins for the sake of Jesus Christ, God, according to His promise, forgiveth you all your sins; and by the authority of God's Word and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare unto you that God, through His grace, hath forgiven all your sins; in the Name of God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then shall the *Minister* continue:

The Lord strengthen your heart by His grace, and may the commemoration of the death of Christ, which you are now about to celebrate, confirm your faith, quicken your love, and establish your hope of eternal life.

The *Minister* shall continue:

Lift up your heart unto God.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is My Body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of Me.

After the same manner, also, when He had supped, He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; this Cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.

Our Father, Who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who

trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, save us, merciful Lord God!

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, hear us, merciful Lord God!

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, give us Thy peace and blessing!

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

Then shall the *Minister* administer the *Lord's Supper*. He shall first give the *Bread*, saying:

The Lord Jesus Christ, Whose Body you now receive, preserve you unto eternal life.

And then the *Cup* with these words:

The Lord Jesus Christ, Whose Blood you now receive, preserve you unto eternal life.

Then the *Minister* shall pray:

We thank Thee, Almighty Father, Who, through Thy Son Jesus Christ, for our consolation and salvation hast instituted this Holy Supper: we pray Thee, grant us grace so to commemorate the death of Christ that we may be partakers of the great Supper in heaven.

Or:

O Lord, Almighty God, Thou Who hast permitted this Thine afflicted servant to partake of Thy holy

Sacrament, we pray Thee that Thou wouldst grant him (her) also to share with Thee and with all the faithful in Thine eternal honor and glory, through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

Bow your heart unto God, and receive the Benediction:

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Holy Baptism

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Beloved in the Lord: From the Word of God we learn that all men are born in sin, but also that Jesus Christ has come into the world to save sinners. Our Lord and Saviour has testified and said: "Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (Jn. 3. 5). Therefore, according to His commandment,* we receive this child (these children) into the Christian Church through the washing of regeneration, and beseech our Lord and Saviour graciously to receive him (her, or them) and endue him (her, or them) with the power of the Holy Spirit unto a living faith and true godliness. To this end may God grant His blessing for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lift up your hearts unto God!

Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself instituted Holy Baptism, when He said to His disciples:

"All authority hath been given unto Me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded

* At a foundling's baptism insert here the words: "Since it is uncertain whether this child has received Holy Baptism."

you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Mt. 28. 18–20).

Hear also the holy and comforting Gospel according to St. Mark:

"They were bringing unto Him little children, that He should touch them: and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, He was moved with indignation, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto Me; forbid them not: for to such belongeth the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall in no wise enter therein. And He took them in His arms, and blessed them, laying His hands upon them." (Mk. 10. 13–16).

Then the *Minister* shall place his hand upon the head of the Child and pray:

Our Father, Who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Merciful and Eternal God, Who alone saves from all evil, and Who has graciously called thee to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light, through our Saviour Jesus Christ, deliver thee from the power of darkness and preserve thee in His truth and fear, now and forevermore. Amen.

Let us hear the Christian faith which we confess and into which this child is (these children are) to be baptized.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the Life everlasting.

The *Minister* shall continue:

Do you desire that this child (these children) shall upon this confession be baptized, and by baptism be received into the Communion of Christ and His Church?

The *Parents* or *Sponsors* answer:

Yes.

Then the *Minister* shall three times pour water upon the Child's head and say:

I baptize thee, N. N., into the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then shall the *Minister* say:

Let us give thanks and pray:

Almighty, Eternal God, our Heavenly Father, we

give Thee hearty thanks that Thou dost continually preserve and increase Thy holy Christian Church, and that Thou hast now permitted this child (these children) to receive the washing of regeneration unto eternal life. We pray Thee to preserve him (her, or them) in the grace of baptism, so that he (she, or they) may grow up in Thy fear, and in the power of Christ's resurrection walk in newness of life, ever pleasing to Thee, and finally receive the inheritance of the saints in heaven; through the same Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The *Minister* shall pronounce the *Benediction* upon the Child:

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon Thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Thereupon the *Minister* shall admonish the Sponsors as follows:

Dearly Beloved: This child (these children), through the washing of regeneration, has (have) become a child (children) of God and joint-heir(s) with Jesus Christ. It becomes you who have witnessed this sacred act diligently to assist this child (these children) with Christian love and faithful prayers. Take solemnly to heart the obligation of the Church, especially in the event of the death of the parents before the child is (these children are) of age, to rear this child (these children) in

the fear and admonition of the Lord, to the end that it (they) may faithfully keep the gifts of grace received in Holy Baptism.

The *Minister* shall continue:

Let us now hear the exhortation of God's Word to us who have received the grace of baptism:

"As therefore ye received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and builded up in Him, and established in your faith, even as ye were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." (Col. 2. 6, 7).

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Then the *Minister* shall say to the Sponsors:

Depart in peace.

Baptism of an Adult Born of Christian Parents

The baptismal ceremony presupposes that the person who is to be baptized (the catechumen) has previously obtained requisite instruction. Witnesses should be present whether the baptism be performed in the presence of the congregation or not.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Beloved in the Lord: Our Lord Jesus Christ has testified and said: "Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3. 5.) This youth (girl, man, woman), who has not previously received Holy Baptism, has declared that he (she) desires to be baptized. Let us therefore in Christian love pray for him (her):

Almighty God, dear heavenly Father: Our Saviour has said: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Open then to him (her) the door, that he (she) may be satisfied with the goodness of Thy house.

Lift up your hearts unto God.

Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself instituted Holy Baptism when He said to His disciples:

"All authority hath been given unto Me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of

all the nations, baptizing them into the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Mt. 28. 18–20.)

The Catechumen shall then kneel, and the Minister shall place his hand upon his head and pray:

Our Father, Who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The *Minister* shall continue:

The Merciful and Eternal God, Who alone saves from all evil, and Who has graciously called thee to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light, through our Saviour Jesus Christ, deliver thee from the power of darkness and preserve thee in His truth and fear, now and forevermore. Amen.

The *Catechumen* rising, the *Minister* shall continue: (Or, the *Catechumen* shall himself make the *Confession of Faith*, saying: I believe, etc.)

Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?

Answer:

I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of

the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; Descended into hell; The third day rose again from the dead; Ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; Whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead?

Answer:

I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting?

Answer:

I do.

Then the *Catechumen* bows his head, and the *Minister* pours water three times thereon and says:

I baptize thee, N. N., into the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The *Minister* shall then pray:

Almighty, Eternal God, our Heavenly Father, we give Thee hearty thanks that Thou dost continually preserve and increase Thy holy Christian Church, and that Thou hast now permitted this youth (girl, man, woman) to receive the washing of regeneration unto eternal life. We pray Thee to preserve him (her) in the grace of baptism, so that he (she) may grow in Thy fear, and in the power of Christ's resurrection walk in newness of life, ever pleasing to Thee, and finally receive the inheritance of the saints in heaven; through the same Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the *Minister* address the baptized person in the following words:

Thou hast been baptized into Christ Jesus that like as He was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so thou also mayest walk in newness of life. The God of all grace would perfect, establish, and strengthen thee by His Word and the Holy Supper. Keep thyself, therefore, in fellowship with His Church in watchfulness and prayer. Fight the good fight of faith. The God of peace be with thee and help thee through all temptations and dangers, and save thee into His heavenly kingdom.

Then shall the baptized person kneel while the *Minister* pronounces the *Benediction* upon him:

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The *Minister* shall then admonish the Sponsors as follows:

Dearly Beloved: You who have witnessed the baptism of this youth (girl, man, woman) should be mindful of your duty to assist him (her) henceforth with Christian love and faithful prayers, that he (she) may faithfully keep the gifts of grace received in baptism. To this end may the Lord grant you His grace.

The *Minister* shall conclude with the following:

Let us now hear the exhortation of God's Word to us who have received the grace of baptism:

"As therefore ye received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and builded up in Him, and established in your faith, even as ye were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." (Col. 2. 6, 7.)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Finally the *Minister* shall say:

Depart in peace.

The Solemnization of Marriage

The order as here given is to be followed when one ring is used. Instruction as to the procedure when two rings are used or when no ring is used will be found in the footnotes. When a marriage contracted before the civil authorities is to be sanctioned by the Church, this ceremony is used with the omission of the pledges and vows.

The Minister shall first give this exhortation:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Dearly Beloved: Marriage is a holy estate instituted of God Himself for the preservation of the human family, and for the mutual help of those who enter into this sacred bond, to lighten the burdens of life, to alleviate its unavoidable cares, and by careful nurture to provide for the happiness of posterity. This is a holy institution; its obligations and objects are likewise holy.

It is the duty of the husband to love and honor his wife, and by careful consideration for her welfare ever seek to deepen her love for him. It is the duty of the wife to love her husband, share with him tenderly and faithfully the cares of the household, and at all times so conduct herself as to be his true helpmeet. They should both carefully consider that they have entered into an estate in which their mutual happiness is de-

pendent upon fidelity to their marriage vows; and, by due regard to their persons and their duties, they should seek to make themselves worthy of mutual esteem and love, and always set for each other a good example in a godly life. Wherefore it behooves them to pray earnestly for a virtuous helpmeet who appreciates the duties of the marriage estate as well as the blessedness which comes from fulfilling them. So shall the marriage begin and continue according to the will of God, and the highest happiness be thereby secured. To this end we pray Almighty God for His blessing on this Man and this Woman.

The *Minister* shall then say to the Man:

Before the omniscient God and in the presence of this Congregation (these witnesses), I ask thee, N. N., wilt thou have N. N., to be thy wedded wife, to love her in prosperity and in adversity?

Answer:

I will.

Then shall the *Minister* say to the Woman:

Before the omniscient God and in the presence of this Congregation (these witnesses), I ask thee, N. N., wilt thou have N. N., to be thy wedded husband, to love him in prosperity and in adversity?

Answer:

I will.

The *Minister* shall then receive the ring from the Man (or, if two rings be used, the rings from the Man and from the Woman) and pray:

Almighty God, Who with a holy, wise, and beneficent purpose hast instituted marriage: We pray Thee to let Thy blessing rest upon the solemn covenant which these Thy servants with this emblem (these emblems) seal* before Thee. Fulfill upon them the promises which Thou hast given to all who live according to Thy Word and who keep the obligations which Thou hast ordained for the welfare of mankind. Amen.

The Man shall then receive the ring (which shall be held by both the Man and the Woman until the vows of both have been made), and the Man shall say:**

I, N. N., take thee, N. N., to be my wedded wife, to

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* If the marriage ring has been given beforehand, the Minister shall say "have sealed." At the close of the prayer the Man shall place the ring on the fourth finger of the Woman's left hand. When the ring ceremony is not used, the words "with this emblem" ("these emblems") are omitted from the prayer.

** When two rings are used, the ceremony shall proceed as follows: The minister shall instruct the Man and the Woman to hold the ring for the Woman. While they do this, the Man shall repeat the following words after the Minister:

I, N. N., take thee, N. N., to be my wedded wife, to love thee in prosperity and in adversity, and as a token thereof I give thee this ring.

The Man shall then place the ring on the fourth finger of the Woman's left hand.

Then the Minister shall instruct the Man and the Woman to hold the ring for the Man. While they do this, the Woman shall repeat the following words after the Minister:

I, N. N., take thee, N. N., to be my wedded husband, to love thee in prosperity and in adversity, and as a token thereof I give thee this ring.

The Woman shall then place the ring on the fourth finger of the Man's left hand.

When these vows have been made, the Man with his right hand shall take the Woman by her right hand, and the Minister shall say: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"Forasmuch as ye now have," etc. The ceremony shall then continue as above.

Note: When no ring is used the Minister shall cause the Man with his right hand to take the Woman by her right hand and they shall then repeat the marriage vows as above (without referring to the ring) while they hold each other's hands, after which the Minister shall say:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"Forasmuch as ye now have," etc.

The ceremony shall then continue as above.

love thee in prosperity and in adversity, and as a token thereof I give thee this ring.

The Woman shall say:

I, N. N., take thee, N. N., to be my wedded husband, to love thee in prosperity and in adversity, and as a token thereof I receive this ring.

The Man then places the ring on the fourth finger of the Woman's left hand, while the *Minister* says:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Forasmuch as ye now have been joined in holy wedlock, I, as a servant of Jesus Christ, before God and this Christian Congregation (these witnesses) confirm your marriage covenant in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Saviour teaches us in the nineteenth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew that marriage is a holy covenant, which cannot be set aside by men at will: "And there came unto Him Pharisees, trying Him, and saying, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? and He answered and said, Have ye not read, that He Who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh? So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

The *Minister* shall then say to the Man and the Woman:

Consider these words of the Lord Jesus Christ. Forget not that your marriage covenant, according to God's will, cannot be revoked, and receive with patience and thanksgiving all that may betide you in the providence of God.

The *Minister* shall then continue:

The Lord be with you and guide you in His truth and fear, now and forevermore.

The Man and the Woman shall kneel, and the *Minister* shall say:

Let us pray.

Almighty, Eternal God, unchangeable in grace and mercy: We pray Thee to fill the hearts of these Thy servants with Thy Holy Spirit, and graciously to bestow upon them every spiritual and temporal blessing. Bless the solemn covenant which they now have made before Thee, that loyalty and happiness may ever abide in their home, that unity and love may lighten their labors, (and that a virtuous posterity may cheer their declining years). Merciful God, hear their prayers, and be their very present help when they call upon Thee. Guide them with Thy counsel, that when their pilgrimage is ended they may be received into the Father's house of many mansions, through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

God Almighty send His light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you. His holy angels accompany you. God the Father, and

the Son, and the Holy Spirit cause His grace to be mighty upon you. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Burial Service

I. *Service at the House*

When a brief service is held at the House before going to the Church or to the Grave, a Hymn may be sung, followed by a *Prayer* or a *Collect*.

II. *Service at the Church*

The Service shall begin with an appropriate *Hymn*.

Then shall be read from the Altar one or more of the following *Scripture Selections:*

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Jehovah. Lord, hear my voice: let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. If Thou, Jehovah, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared. I wait for Jehovah, my soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning; yea, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in Jehovah; for with Jehovah there is loving-kindness, and with Him is plenteous redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.—PSALM 130.

Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. Thou turnest man to destruction, and sayest, Return, ye

children of men. For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth. For we are consumed in Thine anger, and in Thy wrath are we troubled. Thou hast set our iniquities before Thee, our secret sins in the light of Thy countenance.

For all our days are passed away in Thy wrath: we bring our years to an end as a sigh. The days of our years are threescore years and ten, or even by reason of strength fourscore years; yet is their pride but labor and sorrow; for it is soon gone, and we fly away. Who knoweth the power of Thine anger, and Thy wrath according to the fear that is due unto Thee? So teach us to number our days, that we may get us a heart of wisdom.

Return, O Jehovah; how long? and let it repent Thee concerning Thy servants. Oh, satisfy us in the morning with Thy loving-kindness, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days wherein Thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. Let Thy work appear unto Thy servants, and Thy glory upon their children. And let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it.—Psalm 90.

But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them that fall asleep; that ye sorrow not, even as the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that are fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we that are alive, that are left unto the coming of the Lord, shall in no wise precede them that are fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words.—1 TH. 4. 13–18.

Now if Christ is preached that He hath been raised from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, neither hath Christ been raised: and if Christ hath not been raised, then is our preaching vain, your faith also is vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we witnessed of God that He raised up Christ: whom He raised not up, if so be that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, neither hath Christ been raised: and if Christ hath not been raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also that are fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable.

But now hath Christ been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of them that are asleep. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; then they that are Christ's, at His coming. Then cometh the end, when He shall deliver up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign, till He hath put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be abolished is death.

But some one will say, How are the dead raised? and with what manner of body do they come? Thou foolish one, that which thou thyself sowest is not quickened except it die; and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not the body that shall be, but a bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other kind; but God giveth it a body even as it pleased Him, and to each seed a body of its own.—1 Cor. 15. 12–26, 35–38.

Martha therefore said unto Jesus, Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. And even now I know that, whatsoever Thou shalt ask of God, God will give Thee. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto Him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall

never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto Him, Yea, Lord: I have believed that Thou art the Christ the Son of God, even He that cometh into the world. —Jn. 11. 21–27.

And it came to pass soon afterwards, that He went to a city called Nain; and His disciples went with Him, and a great multitude. Now when He drew near to the gate of the city, behold, there was carried out one that was dead, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And He came nigh and touched the bier: and the bearers stood still. And He said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And He gave him to his mother.—Lk. 7. 11–15.

While He spake these things unto them, behold, there came a ruler, and worshipped Him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay Thy hand upon her, and she shall live. And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did His disciples. And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute-players, and the crowd making a tumult, He said, Give place: for the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed Him to scorn. But when the crowd was put forth, He entered in, and took her by the hand; and the damsel arose. And the fame hereof went forth into all that land.—Mt. 9. 18–19; 23–26.

Then the *Minister* shall turn to the Altar and pray:

Almighty and Everlasting God, Who by Thy Son hast promised us forgiveness of sin and deliverance from everlasting death: Strengthen us, we beseech Thee, by Thy Holy Spirit, that our trust in Thy grace in Christ Jesus may daily increase. Grant that with sure confidence we may hold fast the blessed hope that we shall not die, but only sleep, and at the last day be raised up unto eternal life, through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Then shall be sung a *Hymn* or an *Anthem*, after which shall follow the Sermon.

THE SERMON

After the Sermon the *Minister* shall pray as follows:

O Lord God, heavenly Father, Thou Who didst not spare Thine only-begotten Son, but hast given Him for us all: We most heartily thank Thee that through His burial our graves have been hallowed as places of rest. Grant us, we pray Thee, that He may so abide in our hearts that after the sufferings of this present time we may rest in peace, looking for a blessed resurrection: through the same Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Church Service may close with a *Hymn*.

Or, it may conclude with the *Altar Service* which follows.

Or, when the Body is committed in the Church, the *Service at the Grave*, as far as the Benediction, is read at this point, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

THE SALUTATION

A short *Hymn* is then sung, during which the *Minister* proceeds to the Altar. The singing ended, the *Minister* shall turn to the Congregation and sing or say:

The Lord be with you.

The *Congregation* shall sing:

And with thy spirit.

The *Minister* shall turn to the Altar and say the following prayer:

O Lord God, Who, on account of sin, turnest man to destruction, so teach us to number our days, that we may get us a heart of wisdom. Grant us a true faith in Thy Son, Jesus Christ, Who was delivered up for our trespasses, and was raised for our justification, and liveth forever. Give us grace to die daily from sin and so to live in accordance with Thy holy will, that in the hour of death we may be prepared for a blessed departure. Receive then our souls unto Thyself, and suffer our bodies, when they have rested in their graves, to rise on the last day to everlasting life. Amen.

Then, if it be convenient, one or two of the following burial Antiphons may be sung by the *Minister* and the *Congregation:*

Antiphon A

The *Minister:*

So teach us to number our days,

The *Congregation:*

That we may get us a heart of wisdom.

Antiphon B

The *Minister:*

I know that my Redeemer liveth.

The *Congregation:*

And that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.

Antiphon C

The *Minister:*

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

The *Congregation:*

Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, For their works, for their works follow with them.

Antiphon D

The *Minister:*

For me to live is Christ.

The *Congregation:*

And to die, and to die is gain.

THE BENEDICTION

Then shall the *Minister* say:

Bow your hearts to God and receive the Benediction.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The *Congregation* shall sing:

Amen.

III. *Service at the Grave*

The *Minister* shall throw earth upon the body three times while he says:

Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; Jesus Christ, our Saviour, shall at the latter day raise thee from the dead.

Let us pray:

Almighty, Merciful, and Eternal God: Thou hast by reason of sin appointed unto men once to die; but, that we might not remain forever in the power of death, Thou hast given Thy Son Jesus Christ, who knew no sin, to suffer death for us, and through Him hast taken away the sting of death. Help us ever to remember that we also at Thy good pleasure shall be called hence and our bodies return to dust. Grant us grace to remember that we have not here an abiding city. Teach us to seek the things that are eternal, and so to walk in accordance with Thy Holy will that on the last day we may arise to everlasting life; through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Or**

O Lord God, Who, on account of sin, turnest man to destruction, so teach us to number our days that we may get us a heart of wisdom. Grant us a true faith in Thy Son Jesus Christ, who was delivered up for our trespasses, and was raised for our justification, and liveth forever. Give us grace daily to die from sin and so to live in accordance with Thy holy will that in the hour

* This alternative may not be used if an altar service follows.

of death we may be prepared for a blessed departure. Receive then our souls unto Thyself, and suffer our bodies, when they have rested in their graves, to rise on the last day to everlasting life. Amen.

*Or**

O Lord God, Father in heaven. O Lord, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world. O Lord, Thou Holy Spirit. Have mercy upon us. In the hour of death, and at the last judgment, help us, merciful Lord God. Amen.

Let us now hear the Word of God concerning death and the resurrection.

Then are read some suitable passages from Scripture, such as those quoted hereafter, as well as suitable hymns or stanzas from the Hymnal.

Scripture Selections.

But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them that fall asleep; that ye sorrow not, even as the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that are fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.—1 TH. 4. 13–14.

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on Me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on Me shall never die.—JN. 11. 25–26.

Marvel not at this: for the hour cometh, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resur-

* Here a Hymn, or part of a Hymn, may be read.

rection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment.—Jn. 5. 28–29.

Man, that is born of a woman, is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. —Job 14. 1–2.

Behold, Thou hast made my days as handbreadths; and my lifetime is as nothing before Thee: surely every man at his best estate is altogether vanity. Surely every man walketh in a vain show; surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them. And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in Thee. Deliver me from all my transgressions: make me not the reproach of the foolish. I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because Thou didst it. —Ps. 39. 5–9.

It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this cometh judgment.—Heb. 9. 27.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them.—Rev. 14. 13.

Nevertheless I am continually with Thee: Thou hast holden my right hand. Thou wilt guide me with Thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides Thee. My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.—Ps. 73. 23–26.

Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. Thou turnest man to destruction, and sayest, Return, ye children of men. For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as asleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.—Ps. 90. 1–6.

For we are consumed in Thine anger, and in Thy wrath are we troubled. Thou hast set our iniquities before Thee, our secret sins in the light of Thy countenance. For all our days are passed away in Thy wrath: we bring our years to an end as a sigh.—Ps. 90. 7–9.

The days of our years are threescore years and ten, or even by reason of strength fourscore years; yet is their pride but labor and sorrow; for it is soon gone, and we fly away. Who knoweth the power of Thine anger, and Thy wrath according to the fear that is due unto Thee? So teach us to number our days, that we may get us a heart of wisdom.—Ps. 90. 10–12.

He entereth into peace; they rest in their beds, each one that walketh in His uprightness.—Is. 57. 2.

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.—Phil. 1. 21.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My

word, and believeth Him that sent Me, hath eternal life, and cometh not into judgment, but hath passed out of death into life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour cometh, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in Himself, even so gave He to the Son also to have life in Himself.—Jn. 5. 24–26.

In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come again, and will receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.—Jn. 14. 2–3.

Father, I desire that they also whom Thou hast given Me be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me: for Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world.—Jn. 17. 24.

And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwelleth in you, He that raised up Christ Jesus from the dead shall give life also to your mortal bodies through His Spirit that dwelleth in you.—Rom. 8. 10–11.

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified with Him. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us-ward.—Rom. 8. 17–18.

For none of us liveth to himself, and none dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; or whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.—Rom. 14. 7–9.

If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable. But now hath Christ been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of them that are asleep. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; then they that are Christ's, at His coming.—1 Cor. 15. 19–23.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? The sting of death is sin; and the power of sin is the law: but thanks be to God, Who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.—1 Cor. 15. 50, 53–57.

Hymnal Selections

For Infants and Young Persons: 599, 607, 608, 609.

For Older Persons and in General: 595, 598, 604, 606.

Thereupon the *Minister* shall pray:

Our Father, Who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Order for the Installation of a Pastor

The Act of Installing a Pastor shall be performed by the President of the Conference, or, in his absence, by a minister whom he shall appoint. The pastors of the district in which the church is located should assist. The Service shall begin with a *Hymn*. The *Officiating Minister* shall proceed to the Altar, while the *Pastor-elect* and the *Assisting Clergymen* take their position at the Chancel. After the singing of the hymn the Officiating Minister shall turn to the Congregation and say:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then shall he deliver his *Address*, at the conclusion of which he shall say:

Let us pray.

The *Pastor-elect* and the *Assisting Clergymen* shall kneel. The *Officiating Minister* shall turn to the Altar and say:

Almighty and eternal God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Thou hast commanded us to pray for laborers in Thy harvest. In Thy mercy send us faithful pastors and fill their minds and hearts with Thy holy and life-giving Word. Imbue them with grace that they may take heed unto themselves and unto their teaching, and that they may faithfully fulfil all Thy commands. Grant us, O Lord, Thy Holy Spirit, that Thy Word may ever abide with us, increase, and bring forth abundant fruit. Grant that Thy servants, as

is meet, may with all boldness bear witness of Thee, so that Thy holy Christian Church may thereby be edified, serve Thee in constant faith, and remain steadfast in Thy knowledge, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The *Officiating Minister* shall turn to the Church Council and say:

I ask you, honorable members of the Church Council of this Congregation, Have you duly and regularly called this brother N. N. to be Pastor of this N. N. Congregation, and will you conduct yourselves toward him as the Word of God prescribes?

Answer:

Yes.

The *Officiating Minister* shall turn to the Church Council *elect* and say:

Since you have been regularly called to be the Pastor of this Congregation, and now have presented yourself before the Lord and His people to be inducted into this office, hear and consider with us the promises and admonitions of the Word of God.

Then shall the *Assisting Clergymen* read the following Bible passages:

And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto Me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.—Mt. 28. 18–20.

Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, lovest thou Me more than these? He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed My lambs. He saith to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, lovest thou Me? He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Tend My sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of John, lovest thou Me? Peter was grieved because He said unto him the third time, Lovest thou Me? And he said unto Him, Lord, Thou knowest all things: Thou knowest that I love Thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed My sheep. —Jn. 21. 15–17.

He that descended is the same also that ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. And He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ.—Eph. 4. 10–12.

Therefore thus saith Jehovah, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, that thou mayest stand before Me; and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as My mouth; they shall return unto thee, but thou shalt not return unto them.—Jer. 15. 19.

I charge thee in the sight of God, and of Christ Jesus, Who shall judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the Word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort,

with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables. But be thou sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil thy ministry.—2 Tim. 4. 1–5.

Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth. But shun profane babblings: for they will proceed further in ungodliness. But flee youthful lusts, and follow after righteousness, faith, love, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and ignorant questionings refuse, knowing that they gender strifes. And the Lord's servant must not strive, but be gentle towards all, apt to teach, forbearing, in meekness correcting them that oppose themselves; if peradventure God may give them repentance unto the knowledge of the truth.—2 Tim. 2. 15–16; 22–25.

Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at My mouth, and give them warning from Me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thy hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall

die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.—Ezek. 3. 17–19.

Tend the flock of God which is among you, exercising the oversight, not of constraint, but willingly, according to the will of God; nor yet for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as lording it over the charge allotted to you, but making yourselves ensamples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd shall be manifested, ye shall receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away.—1 Pet. 5. 2–4.

And the Lord said, Who then is the faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall set over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will set him over all that he hath.—Lk. 12. 42–44.

Then shall the *Officiating Minister* say:

The Lord grant you grace faithfully to keep these words in your heart. May they guide you in your daily walk and conversation, and ever remind you of your responsibility. May they increase your watchfulness and inspire you with zeal for continued consecration to the service of our Chief Shepherd, and to the faithful and conscientious care of this Congregation.

The Church of God looks to you ever to bear in mind the importance and sacred responsibility of the office this day intrusted to you, and to continue by earnest prayer in the Name of Jesus to obtain grace and strength from God, that you may prove yourself a good and faithful servant of the Lord in the performance of

your duties. The Lord help you to fight the good fight of faith, to lay hold of eternal life, and to make a good confession.

I ask you now to make confession before God and His Congregation of your Christian faith.

The *Pastor-elect* shall make the following confession:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the Life everlasting. Amen.

After the *Confession of Faith* the *Officiating Minister* shall say:

The Lord grant you grace to remain steadfast in this faith unto the end, and in it to strengthen them that are of the household of the faith.

The *Officiating Minister* shall ask the following questions:

Do you declare yourself willing to take upon you in the Name of the Triune God the office of pastor in this Christian N. N. Congregation?

Answer:

Yes.

Will you earnestly endeavor rightly and worthily to administer this office to the honor of God and the salvation of souls?

Answer:

Yes.

Will you therefore remain faithful to the pure Word of God, shun all false and heretical doctrines, preach the Lord Jesus Christ according to the Word of God, and administer the holy sacraments as they were instituted?

Answer:

Yes.

Will you so conduct yourself that your life may be an example to the faithful and give offence to no one?

Answer:

Yes.

The *Officiating Minister* shall say:

God Almighty strengthen and help you to keep these promises.

By virtue of the authority vested in me, I intrust to you the office of Pastor in this Congregation, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The *Pastor-elect* shall kneel, and the *Officiating Minister*, together with the *Assisting Clergymen*, shall place their hands upon his head and say:

Our Father, Who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The *Officiating Minister* shall proceed to the *Altar*, and, turning to the *Congregation*, shall say:

Let us pray.

Turning to the *Altar*, he shall pray:

Merciful God, dear heavenly Father, Thou who hast graciously promised and declared that through the preaching of Christ crucified Thou wilt save all who believe: we earnestly pray Thee that Thou wouldst richly endow with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit this Thy servant, whom Thou hast sent and ordained as the Pastor of this Congregation. Grant that he may be strengthened and established, ever steadfast and unmoved in all temptations, and that faithfully and diligently he may minister to the needs of Thy Church by means of Thy life-giving Word, to the praise and glory of Thy holy Name, and to the edification and advancement of Thy kingdom, through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Then the *Officiating Minister*, turning to the *Pastor*, shall say:

Bow your heart unto God and receive the benediction:

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The *Congregation* shall rise and sing:

Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Service shall close with silent prayer.

Order for Installation of Church Officers

Deacons and Trustees should be installed into their respective offices at a regular public service as soon after their election as possible. The Installation shall take place immediately after the Hymn following the Sermon.

The *Minister*, having proceeded to the Altar, shall turn to the congregation and read the names of the *Officers-elect*, who shall then present themselves at the Chancel. He shall proceed as follows:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Brethren: Inasmuch as you have been elected to important offices in this Congregation, let us now hear the admonitions and promises of God's Word.

Now in these days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a murmuring of the Grecian Jews against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. And the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not fit that we should forsake the word of God, and serve tables. Look ye out therefore, brethren, from among you seven men of good report, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the ministry of the word.—Acts 6. 1–4.

I beseech you therefore, brethren; by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, ac-

ceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members have not the same office: so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and severally members one of another. And having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of our faith; or ministry, let us give ourselves to our ministry; or he that teacheth, to his teaching, or he that exhorteth, to his exhorting: he that giveth, let him do it with liberality; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.—Rom. 12. 1, 4–8.

For they that have served well as deacons gain to themselves a good standing, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus –1 Tim. 3. 13.

Thereupon the *Minister* shall say:

The Lord grant you grace earnestly to take heed unto these words.

The duties which you have in common are as follows:

You shall, with the help of God, in your own home and before this Congregation live a consistent Christian life in word and deed.

The duties of the Deacons are these:

1. They shall, in the absence of the pastor, conduct the public services; and they shall at all times endeavor to promote true Christian living.

2. They shall visit the sick and provide for the relief of the poor and afflicted members of the Congregation.

3. They shall see that the pastor is properly supported.

4. They shall see that the children and youth of the Congregation receive proper instruction in our Christian faith, and that schools for this purpose are established and maintained.

5. They shall use their best endeavors to promote the cause of missions.

6. They shall see that the divine services and all matters pertaining to the Congregation are conducted decently and in order.

The duties of the Trustees are the following:

1. They shall hold in trust, for the use and benefit of the Congregation, its real and personal property, and keep and carefully preserve all deeds and other valuable documents.

2. They shall faithfully execute the resolutions of the Congregation in respect to its financial affairs; make such repairs to the church and other buildings of the Congregation as may be necessary, in accordance with the constitution and resolutions of the Congregation; and protect and preserve against damage and loss all other property belonging to the Congregation.

3. They shall receive and keep a record of all incomes of the Congregation, and at every annual meeting render account thereof.

The *Minister* shall continue:

These are the duties which this Congregation has asked you to assume and discharge. I ask you now: Do

you promise, by the help of God, faithfully to fulfil these duties to the best of your ability?

Answer:

Yes.

The *Minister* shall say:

May God give you the will and the strength to keep these promises.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, I hereby declare you inducted into your respective offices. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Then shall the *Minister* say:

Bow your hearts unto God and receive the Benediction:

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The *Minister* shall turn to the Altar, and the *Congregation* shall rise and sing:

Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Service shall close with silent prayer.

Order for Reception of Members

Persons of other denominations, who have been baptized and whose application for membership has been approved by the Church Council, are received according to the following formula:

The *Applicant* shall present himself at the Chancel, and the *Minister* shall say:

Beloved in the Lord: You have applied for membership in this Evangelical Lutheran Congregation; you have also in the presence of the Church Council given proof of your knowledge of the doctrine which our Lord Jesus has revealed in His Holy Word, and which is preached and confessed in this Church. This is also the faith into which you have been baptized. But as you have been a member of a denomination having a confession of faith differing from that of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, I ask you, therefore, Do you of your own free will and firm conviction sever your former church connection, and do you desire now to unite with this Evangelical Lutheran Church?

Answer:

Yes.

I exhort you now of your own accord to make confession of your faith before God and this Christian Congregation.

Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?

Answer:

Yes.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; Descended into hell; The third day rose again from the dead; Ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; Whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead?

Answer:

Yes.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the Life everlasting?

Answer:

Yes.

Do you therefore believe and confess that the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God, the only infallible rule and standard of our faith and life?

Answer:

Yes.

Do you believe that the Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism are a true summary of the principal doctrines of the Christian faith?

Answer:

Yes.

Is it your purpose to remain steadfast in the faith unto the end, and as a true follower of Christ walk in newness of life; and, to the end that you may grow in grace, will you, in watchfulness and prayer, diligently use the Word of God and the Holy Sacraments?

Answer:

Yes.

Do you also promise faithfully to fulfil the duties and obligations of church membership as prescribed in the constitution of this Congregation?

Answer:

Yes.

Upon this confession and promise, I hereby declare you a member of this ..... Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, sharing with us free access to the means of grace. The Lord grant that you may avail yourself of this privilege unto your eternal salvation. Amen.

Thereupon the *Minister* shall offer a brief prayer, after which he shall say:

Bow your hearts unto God, and receive the Benediction:

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Order for the Laying of a Corner Stone

The Church Council, visiting Ministers, the Pastor of the Congregation, and the President of the Conference shall walk in procession to the place where the church is to be erected.

Then shall the *President* say:

I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go unto the house of Jehovah,
Our feet are standing
Within thy gates, O Jerusalem,
Jerusalem, that art builded
As a city that is compact together;
Whither the tribes go up, even the tribes of Jehovah,
For an ordinance for Israel,
To give thanks unto the Name of Jehovah.
For there are set thrones for judgment,
The thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
They shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls,
And prosperity within thy palaces.
For my brethren and companions' sakes,
I will now say, Peace be within thee.
For the sake of the house of Jehovah our God
I will seek thy good.

The *President* shall continue:

Beloved members and friends of this Congregation: We are met to begin the erection of a house to be consecrated to the honor and worship of God, a house where the Word of God shall be preached and the Holy Sacraments administered; let us therefore invoke the blessing of the Lord.

Almighty God and merciful Father, except Thou build the house, they labor in vain that build it. We pray Thee therefore in the Name of Thy Son to help us and by Thy grace to crown our undertaking with success. Hear our prayer and bless us abundantly in spiritual and temporal things. Amen.

Then shall the *President* and *Assisting Ministers* pray:

Our Father, Who art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The stone shall then be set in place, and the *Pastor* shall make mention of the articles deposited therein. Then the *President* shall say:

The Lord be with you.

The *Congregation* shall respond:

And with thy spirit.

Then shall the *President* strike the stone three times with a hammer, saying:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

By this solemn act is laid the corner stone of the church which this N. N. Congregation is erecting and which is to be dedicated to the glory and worship of the Triune God in accordance with the confession and order of our Lutheran Church.

"Other foundation can no man lay, than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Then shall the *President* continue:

Let us unite in the confession of our faith according to the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the Life everlasting. Amen.

Then shall the *Congregation* sing or say:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Here follows the *Address.*

The *Congregation* shall then sing a *Hymn,* during which the offering shall be made.

After the singing, the *President* shall say:

Let us pray.

We praise Thy Name, O Lord, that Thou hast blessed our efforts toward the erection of this house which is to be dedicated to Thy service. Do Thou help all who are engaged in its construction, and mercifully preserve them from every danger. Overrule all hindrances, that the undertaking may be crowned with success. Bless those who are to direct the work, and grant that by the willing sacrifices of many the building may be speedily brought to completion and be dedicated to Thy glory. Grant Thy grace, that all the members of the Congregation, and others who are to worship in this house, may faithfully avail themselves of all the privileges of Thy Church, that their hearts may become the temples of the Holy Spirit. Gracious Father, give us strength to keep Thy commandments and to do Thy will. Guide and direct us in all things, so that at last we may be permitted to enter into Thy courts above.

This and whatsoever else we need do Thou vouchsafe unto us for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Bow your hearts unto God, and receive the Benediction:

The Lord bless Thee, and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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